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Women In Government Releases Opioid Taxation White Paper

Washington, DC – Women In Government is releasing a new white paper January 31, 2019 on “State Opioid Taxes: Economic & Health Policy Implications” to analyze the possible ways for states to decrease the impact of the opioid epidemic on the United States. Authored by Alex Brill of Matrix Global Advisors, the paper examines state opioid taxes and calls attention to flaws in the approach. Several better approaches to helping communities deal with the opioid epidemic are also suggested in the white paper.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that more than 130 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose. The national economic burden of this crisis is more than \$500-billion annually when considering the value of lives lost. The impact of the epidemic varies from state-to-state, but all are impacted, with some considering taxation as an option to curb the scourge. “State Opioid Taxes: Economic & Health Policy Implications” explores the effectiveness of opioid taxes in addition to unintended consequences for states.

“States are leaders in this fight against a terrible epidemic,” stated Lucy Gettman, Executive Director of Women In Government. “We need to be sure our efforts are reaching the right people and having the intended impact.”

Brill is the founder and CEO of Matrix Global Advisors. He has testified numerous times before Congress and has served as an expert witness and litigation consultant in both tax and pharmaceutical patent litigations. Brill has written and consulted on small-molecule generic drug competition, drug pricing, Part B reimbursement, generic drug labeling requirements, disease management, and the economic consequences of obesity and obesity mitigation, among other issues. In addition, Alex is currently a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

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Women In Government Foundation (WIG), Inc., headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a national, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of women state legislators. Led by a national Board of Directors consisting of 13 state legislators, WIG provides leadership opportunities, networking, expert forums, and educational resources to address and resolve complex public policy issues to all women state legislators. Women In Government leads the nation with a bold, courageous and passionate vision that empowers and mobilizes all women legislators to effect sound policy in areas such as healthcare, education, energy, the environment, transportation, criminal justice and the arts.